

February 10, 1923.

The Honorable,  
The Secretary of State.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of February 5, 1923, DI 015.41, enclosing a copy of a note from the British Ambassador asking for information in regard to the practice of the United States Mint at Philadelphia in the manufacture of pure nickel coins. The United States Mint has never undertaken the coinage of pure nickel or unalloyed nickel, nor has it made independent experiments, as to do so would require extensive changes in our Mint machinery.

The United States Mint has, however, investigated the matter of obtaining pure nickel suitable for coinage purposes, and has been informed that the Alloys Company of Hyde, Pa, now known as the American Nickel Corporation, Pittsburgh, Pa., claims to be able to refine nickel to a purity of 99½ plus per cent. They also claim their product is the purest commercially produced. It is understood the Canadian 5¢ nickel was coined from their product, but it is not known in what form it was furnished.

Respectfully,

*A. W. Mellon*

Secretary of the Treasury.